



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

MASS. AFB. 3: 83-103

Office of

Campaign & Political Finance

One Ashburton Place, Boston 02108

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Ernis J. Duffin

Director



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INTERPRETIVE BULLETIN

RE: The Disclosure of Campaign Finance Activity by Multi-Candidate Political Committees Organized with the Office Of Campaign & Political Finance who participate in City and Town Elections.

M.G.L. c. 55, Section 5 states that "Each political committee shall organize by filing with the director, or if organized for the purpose of a city or town election only, with the city or town clerk, a statement of organization." The law is quite clear, then, in providing that only those committees organized for the purpose of participating in municipal elections shall register with the local clerk. All other multi-candidate political committees register with this office.

While this provision of the campaign finance law provides for the registration of political committees, c. 55, Section 18 provides, in a very specific and comprehensive manner, for the disclosure of political fundraising and disbursements. Those committees organized for the purpose of participating in city or town elections will file campaign finance reports with the appropriate city or town clerk. The filing of these reports according to the schedule and manner required by the statute provides for disclosure of political activity. However, there may be multi-candidate committees who are registered and filing campaign finance reports with this office who wish to make contributions to, or expenditures in behalf of, candidates in a city or town election. Such a political committee, in addition to filing campaign finance reports on the appropriate schedule when participating in state elections, must also file complete and accurate campaign finance disclosure reports according to the following schedule.

Since such a multi-candidate political committee is, in addition to other activity, aiding or promoting the success or defeat of one or more municipal candidates, it must also file reports with this office on or before: (1) the eighth day preceeding a city or town preliminary or primary, including a caucus, the eighth day preceeding a city or town election, and if a city election, as a final report, the tenth day of January in the following year complete as to the thirty-first day of December of the prior year, and if a town election, as a final report, the thirtieth day following said election, (2) the eighth day preceeding a special primary, including a caucus, the eighth day preceeding a special election, and, as a final report, the thirtieth day following a special election:

One of the primary purpose and goals of G.L. c. 55 is the public disclosure of political contributions and expenditures activity. Compliance with the above will promote that significant objective. Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact this office.

